

## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on November 17, 2003. Claims 1-7 are pending in the application with Claims 1 and 7 being in independent form. By the present amendment, Claim 1, 2 and 4 have been amended and Claim 7 has been added. No new matter or issues are believed to be introduced by the amendments.

It is brought to the Examiner's attention that Applicant has ordered a certified copy of EP application number 01200508.8 filed on February 12, 2001. Applicant will respectfully submit the certified copy upon receiving it.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,286,192 issued to Dixon on February 15, 1994 ("Dixon"); Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,060,870 issued to Cannarella on December 6, 1977 ("Cannarella"); Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,321,866 issued to Klupt in view of Cannarella and in view of Dixon; Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cannarella in view of Klupt; and Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dixon in view of Klupt.

Claim 1 has been amended to better define Applicant's invention and to overcome the above-noted rejections. In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to recite as follows:

An oral care system (1) comprising a sonic power toothbrush (2) which comprises: a body (3); a brush member (4) mounted on the body (3); a brush head (5) which is supported by the brush member (4) at its end remote from the body (3) so as to be able to vibrate relative to the body (3) and which is provided with bristles (6) and an

additive outlet (7); an additive container (8) connected to said additive outlet (7); driving means (9) for generating sonic frequency vibrations and transmission means (29) for transmitting said sonic frequency vibrations to the brush head (5); characterized in that the toothbrush (2) comprises at least one further additive container (18), wherein at least one additive stored within a respective container (8, 18) is manually or automatically selected during use of the toothbrush (2). (Emphasis added)

None of the cited references disclose or suggest the above-underlined limitations which has been added to Claim 1. At best, Dixon and Cannarella disclose a switch and/or a switch-like member, such as a manually operable valve, for manually selecting one of at least two additives for transport to a toothbrush brush head. None of the references disclose or suggest manual or automatic selection of an additive during use of the toothbrush, as recited by Applicant's Claim 1.

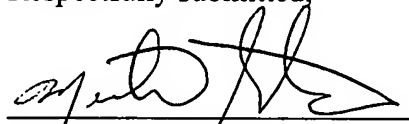
Additionally, none of the cited references disclose or suggest a refill unit-charging apparatus configured to simultaneously refill at least one container and charge at least one rechargeable battery of a toothbrush upon receiving the toothbrush within a support holder, as recited by Applicants' Claim 7. Accordingly, it is believed that Applicant's Claims 1 and 7 recite patentable subject matter, and therefore, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claim 1 and allowance of Claims 1 and 7 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 depend from Claim 1, and therefore include the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, for the same reasons given above for Claim 1, Claims 2-6 are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections with respect to Claims 2-6 and allowance of Claims 2-6 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-7, are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Frank Keegan, Esq., Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-333-9669.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael A. Scaturro', is written over a horizontal line.

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